

# JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS

Chairman :  
Tsunetaro Miyakoda

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Editors:  
Kaname Tsukahara

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## NOTES FROM NATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION AT SENDAI

May 2-4 - attendance approx. 650 - delegates from Hokkaido to Kyushu. This National Convention was a preparatory convention for the International Sunday School Gathering planned for Japan in 1958. United Church of Christ Moderator Muto emphasized the importance of Christian education and the significance of the coming World Sunday School Convention. Dr. Toyohiko Kagawa spoke on "the development of Christian Brotherhood" and Dr. T. T. Brumbaugh (Far East Sec'y Meth. Board of Foreign Missions) spoke on "Hand in Hand we Work in a Pagan World". Considerable time was given to considering methods of fund raising for the International Convention next year.







### CHAPLAINS COOPERATING IN WORLD SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION

Chaplains with the U.S. Armed Forces stationed in Japan have already indicated their cooperation in the 1958 Convention by the proposed lease of an electric organ to the Metropolitan Gymnasium where public sessions will be held in Tokyo, and the plan to lend blankets and sheets to the participants in the Institute at Kobe.

### JAPANESE IN BRAZIL TO PARTICIPATE IN JAPAN CENTENNIAL

The Japanese Christian Federation in Brazil will send a "home-visiting" Christian delegation to the Protestant Centennial in Japan in 1959, according to word received by Chairman Kozaki of the NCC. About 300,000 Japanese have already emigrated to Brazil with more going each year. Over 40 Japanese churches there serve the religious needs of the Christians among the emigrants. These churches have no relationship with churches in Japan, neither have they established any relationship with mission boards in America. The Rev. Jiro Yuasa, Pastor of the São Paulo Japanese church is chairman of the Federation.

### THE BIBLE TO THOSE WHO TREATED HIM BADLY-AN ENGLISHMAN'S GIFT

Dr. Takuo Matsumoto, Prof. at Aoyama Gakuin in Tokyo, and former member of the translation committee of the new Colloquial Bible, who has recently returned from a year of teaching in England, told of meeting an Englishman in London, a Mr. F. Watson, age 40, who was a prisoner of the Japanese in Singapore during the war, and was sent to the coal mines in Kyushu, where he was badly mistreated. His health wrecked, he returned to England after the war. 12 years later, hearing the preaching of Dr. Matsumoto in a church in a suburb of London, he was moved to give up his hatred of the Japanese, and was so impressed by Dr. Matsumoto that he gave the 20 pounds (about ¥20,000) that he had with him right then and there to Dr. Matsumoto, requesting him to purchase Bibles with it and present them to the people in the mining town who had mistreated the prisoners of war whom they had forced to work in the coal mines. The Japan Bible Society is assisting in locating the village and distributing the Bibles so that Mr. Watson's idea may be fulfilled.

### DR. ZENTA WATANABE PUBLISHES "COLLECTION OF SERMONS"

Dr. Watanabe, Minister emeritus of the Tokyo Ginza Church, and a well-known Bible scholar and preacher in present-day Japan, has gathered together 21 of his recent sermons into a book, called "The Place which Produces Hypocrites", which has just come off the press. It will be recalled that Dr. Watanabe also has recently contributed a book to the World Christian Books series published from London, entitled, "Interpreting the Bible as One Book".







### YOUTH IN INDUSTRY - 4 WEEKS IN FACTORIES

This program, also called the "Labor Seminar", offers an International and ecumenical group of university and college students the chance to face the problems of the industrial laborer by standing side by side with him at the work bench, sharing views on the industrial situation around the discussion table, and to learn from experienced leaders about the worries and concerns of the worker. Included are briefing on the aims and techniques of "occupational evangelism", and a search for the ways in which the Gospel is relevant to the industrial situation in Japan. They will live together in the same dormitory, and work as ordinary workers in factories, in the Kyoto-Osaka area, under contract with the Occupational Evangelism Committee. Dates of the Camp are July 12 to August 11.

### YOUTH CARAVANS

Two are scheduled, both from July 16 - August 6. The first 3 days the Caravaners will spend in training. Then they will go to designated places at the request of each community's churches, staying at each place 2 or 3 days. Composed of 6-8 members, both men and women, the Caravan is prepared to lead in worship Christian education, fellowship and recreation. One group will go to Tochigi, concentrating on rural areas in the northwestern part of the Kanto area, Nikko, and Nasu. The other group will go to the Noto peninsula, a remote area jutting out into the Japan sea, and sometimes called "the Tibet of Japan".

### INTERNATIONAL WORK CAMPS

From July 16 to August 14 - for 4 weeks at two different sites, the International Work Camps will be held under the auspices of the Youth Commission of the NCC in Japan. One site is the Komochiyama Orphanage in Gumma Pref., where the campers will construct a dining hall, bath, and cooking facilities. This orphanage is the realization of a devoted Christian layman's dream. This camp will be conducted in English, and will run for 4 weeks, composition to be 30-35 men and women. The other ecumenical work camp, also running for 4 weeks will be in Arao, Kumamoto, in Kyushu, where the Campers will work at a kindergarten in the heart of a coal mining area. Grading and leveling will be done preparatory to building a day nursery and an adjacent playground. Composed of about the same number, this camp, however, will be conducted in Japanese.







### HIGH SCHOOL WORK CAMPS

These will run from July 25 to August 8. There will be two, one in the Aomori area, in a remote highland, when the task of the campers will be the running of 2.5 kilometers of electric power line (including the setting of poles) and a similar length of telephone line to bring these utilities to the area for the first time. The program also calls for the improvement of the channel that carries water to the only hydro-electric powerplant in the area. The other camp will be in Tokyo, where the campers will work at the recently established "House of Light", an institution for the blind. Here the task will be leveling and grading and laying the foundation for a dormitory. Both camps will use the Japanese language. 25 people will compose each group - boys and girls in each.

### KRIETE MEMORIAL FUND OF THE JCWS

Dr. Carl Kriete, who returned to the U.S. for retirement two years ago after long service as a Missionary in Japan, set up a Memorial Fund for the rehabilitation of the physically handicapped as a subsidiary service of the JCWS. Dr. Kriete had worked immediately after the war in the distribution of LARA relief goods and JCWS relief goods. This memorial fund was set aside to help provide financial independence for the rehabilitated when they open up new businesses. 49 are now getting loans from ¥15,000 to ¥30,000. These are to be returned within 5 years at interest of 3%. About ¥100,000 has already been returned. ¥350,000 is allotted from the fund for this year and applicants are now being screened.

### CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS MAY NEED RE-EVALUATION

There are 207 church related schools in Japan and because these have been receiving each year such large grants of financial help from Mission Boards Dr. T. T. Brumbaugh, Sec'y for the Far East of the Foreign Mission Board of the Methodist Church in America, in cooperation with the Association of Christian Schools in Japan, has recently conducted a survey which it is believed will play a vital role in determining future support of Christian Schools. The object of the survey was to determine whether or not the religious education being conducted is producing fruitful results for the Christian Church in Japan. Mission Boards at home are seeking materials by which to evaluate fundamental questions about Christian educational institutions here. This matter will be taken up at the 45th General Meeting of the Educational Association of Christian Schools which meets in Hokkaido June 19 and 20. (IBC asking for Christian Schools in 1958 are: \$285,880 for general operating expense and \$1,529,800 for Reserve and Special funds, or a total of \$1,815,680).







HOKKAIDO FARMERS IN NEED AGAIN

During this off-crop season rice is getting shorter and shorter again in Hokkaido. The government there has conducted a survey in which it has been found that about half of the pioneer villages there are in need of relief. For example 62% of the 160 people in Komagatake are suffering from malnutrition. This is not considered an isolated case. At the request of the District Committee JCWS has sent 328 sacks of relief rice to the Governor of Hokkaido.

ICC THANKS BCC FOR ANTI-H-BOMB RESOLUTION

The International Relations Committee of the NCC has expressed its gratitude to the British Christian Council for its adoption of a specific resolution against the testing of nuclear weapons. This was in answer to Japan NCC's message sent to the British Council of Churches, opposing the Christmas Island tests. The Japan NCC has asked the British Council to continue its efforts toward the banning of A-H bomb experiments.

JOINT MEETING OF PREPARATORY COMMITTEES FOR WORLD SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION

Held in Tokyo June 4 and 5, 130 attended from various denominations and organizations. Japan's delegation will include, it was decided, 2100 Sunday school teachers, 800 United Church and other denominational representatives, 200 from various Christian organizations, 300 missionaries, and 100 from the supporting associations total of 3500.

GENERAL SEC'Y OF AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY VISITS JAPAN

Mr. H. Waterman, General Sec'y of the American Bible Society, stopped in Japan briefly the first week of June on his way home from a visit to Thailand in order to visit the Japan Bible Society.

JAPAN BIBLE SOCIETY SEC'Y TO GO TO BRAZIL

Rev. Tsunetaro Miyakoda, General Sec'y of the Japan Bible Society will attend the World Bible Society Federations General Meeting in Brazil beginning July 10.

Held every 3 years, 60 official delegates are expected from some 25 nations having national Bible Societies. Rev. Miyakoda is a Director of the World Society, and a representative of the Asia regional council. While in Brazil he will confer with Japanese emigrants in South America relative to distribution of Japanese Bibles, and encourage the Japanese churches in South America to send a delegation to the World Sunday School Convention in 1958 and to the Centennial celebrations in 1959. He is due back in Japan August 11.







LEGATE TO CHINA DENIES HONG KONG REPORT

Mrs. Tamaki Uemura, President of the National YWCA and Vice-Chairman of the 15-member Christian delegation to China emphatically denies the reports published in Hong Kong to the effect that Japanese Christians should free themselves from the influence of foreign missionaries. Surrounded by reporters in Hong Kong who seemed to be seeking something sensational, Mrs. Uemura did comment favorably on the importance of the three principles of self-support, self-administration and self-propagation which have always been recognized as sound principles for the Christian Movement everywhere and she then said that she thinks the Japanese should give special emphasis to the last item. But Mrs. Uemura insists that she is deeply grateful for all that missionaries have done and are doing in Japan; the only exception being certain types of post-war missionaries who fail to understand the Japanese people and whom she believes will ultimately have an adverse effect upon the Christian movement in Japan.

IN BRIEF

Dr. & Mrs. Dallas Browning, Sec'y elect to the office of "Advance Specials" - Methodist Church - Division of World Missions, stopped in Japan from May 22 to June 4 on the last leg of a world tour. His office will raise from 4 to 5 million dollars for mission "specials" in fields where the Methodist Church is at work.

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Dr. John Biegeleisen, on sabbatical leave from Eden Seminary (Evangelical & Reformed Church) and currently lecturing at Sendai and Biblical Seminary in Tokyo spent a week in early June lecturing at Kansei Gakuin and Doshisha Seminary in Kyoto.

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Rev. Paul Gregory, who just recently went home on furlough, has been elected new Associate Sec'y for Japan, Hong Kong and Iraq for the Board of International Missions, E & R Church, replacing Rev. Phil Williams, who has resigned to return to Japan this fall.

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Rev. Galen Russell, Pastor of Tokyo Union Church since October 1952 has resigned, effective Aug. 1. Three highlights of his very successful ministry include a continuing emphasis on Lay Visitation Evangelism, the development of a unique non-denominational - international congregation including 16 nationalities and 32 denominational backgrounds, and a continuing educational growth between lay folk and the large number of full-time Christian workers in the congregation.

551 new members have been received into the church under Rev. Russell's ministry.

The Russell family depart June 28 on a round the world tour on their way back to the U.S. Rev. Russell's new assignment is not yet definite.



